



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

DATE: December 16, 2013

TO: Chair Rodgers and members of the Planning Commission

FROM: James Mak, Capital Improvements Projects Manager/Engineer
Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: Roosevelt Street Pedestrian Accessibility Project
Summary of Public Comments

Department of Public Works (DPW) received comments on the Roosevelt St Projects from the public by phone, email, and at a public meeting held on November 16, 2013. The project was generally well received. Below is a list of the major concerns the public has on this project.

Pedestrian Connectivity from Ridge Pl to N Tuckahoe St. (Cemetery Access Road)

All commenters brought up concerns regarding the lack of public pedestrian access between Ridge Pl and N Tuckahoe St, which is where Roosevelt St runs along the cemetery. Majority of comments stated that there are still pedestrians who choose to walk along Roosevelt's road shoulder and this may pose a safety hazard. Other concerns included the unorthodox nature of being "allowed" to use cemetery grounds for passage, school bus stop at N Tuckahoe St, and a "paper street" outlet on the west side of Roosevelt.

DPW Response: The segment of Roosevelt St along the cemetery lacks adequate public right of way for new sidewalk due to the proximity of the Cemetery and the grade change on the north side. The City is currently in discussions with private owners and we expect that the existing pathway through Oakwood Cemetery will not change.

Bus Stop at Roosevelt St. and N Tuckahoe St

Several commenters were concerned about the school bus stop at Roosevelt St and N Tuckahoe St. Concerns included access issues mentioned above and impacts during construction.

DPW Response: DPW will take the bus stop into account when planning the project to minimize impacts during construction.

Snow Plows

Design of the project, including new bump outs should consider impacts to snow plows.

DPW Response: DPW will take snow plow use and traffic along Roosevelt St into account during project design.



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Power Pole/Telephone Pole Relocations

We received a few concerns regarding relocation of telephone poles to remove sidewalk obstructions and make the City more walkable in general.

DPW Response: There is no plan at the moment to relocate telephone poles along the project area if it is not necessary. Depending on the final project design, we may deem relocations necessary on a case by case basis to meet ADA requirements (5 foot clearance).

Pedestrian Access on East Side of Roosevelt from Broad to Ridge Pl

One comment was received asking for new sidewalk along the east side of Roosevelt near Broad St so there would be sidewalk on both sides of the street.

DPW Response: There is no plan to change the access to Fort Taylor Park. Adding sidewalk on the south/east side was not considered due to limited right of way, potential constructability issues, and cost of building a retaining wall along that location due to the extreme grade.

Intersection at Ridge Pl/Oakwood Cemetery/Roosevelt St

One comment was received about concerns for pedestrian safety at this location.

DPW Response: Part of the project concept involves updating the crosswalk at Ridge and Oakwood including plans to normalize the crossing and improve crosswalk visibility. We may also consider traffic calming measures.

Attachments:

- Email correspondence with Tina Earman, City Resident on Noland St.
- Email correspondences with Dennis Szymanski, City Resident on Hillwood Av (3 emails).
- Summary of phone call with Lisa, City Resident on Tuckahoe St.
- Email correspondence with Eileen Brown, City Resident.
- Comment card from Tina Earman, City Resident on Noland St. at the November 16 public meeting.

cc: Cindy Mester, Acting Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager
Kirsten Munz, P.E., Department of Public Works, Civil Engineer

Last Updated: 12/2/13
Printed On: 12/2/13

P:\DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS\CIP-PROJECTS\ROOSEVELT & ROOSEVELT FG058, FG57A\PE\Planning Commission\Roosevelt Comments Summary.docx

James Mak

From: James Mak
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 8:22 AM
To: Kirsten Munz
Subject: FW: Roosevelt/2.1 again

I think I missed a cc somewhere. FYI – just so you have the full chain

From: Joe and Tina [mailto:joe.tina@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:28 PM
To: James Mak
Subject: Re: Roosevelt/2.1 again

Thanks for the Ari link but I wore myself out a few years ago trying to get someone's attention to no avail. I guess it will take a bad accident before it gets the attention of someone. When the Metro station opened the corner lot was very bad for years. The owner, at some point, cut the bushes, put up a chain link fence and planted little bushes. The little bushes are now very big and obscure vision like before.

Thanks for the details on the proposals...I hope to attend the Sat meeting, but, if I can't at least I have a grasp of the ideas.

Tina

From: [James Mak](#)
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:06 PM
To: [Joe and Tina](#)
Subject: RE: Roosevelt/2.1

Tina-

The City has not finalized a plan to provide an accessible path from Roosevelt Bl to Broad. The segment of Roosevelt St along the cemetery lacks adequate public right of way for new sidewalk due to the proximity of the Cemetery and the grade change on the north side. The City is currently in discussions with private owners and we expect that the existing pathway through Oakwood Cemetery will not change. The City plans to upgrade existing sidewalk and ramps to meet ADA standards.

I'm not sure which Arlington County department would be in charge of dealing with vegetation along sidewalks and roadways. You can check the two links below – one of these departments should be able to help:

Environmental Services: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/cpe/concrete/resform.htm>

Code Enforcement: <http://building.arlingtonva.us/resource/code-enforcement/>

From: Joe and Tina [mailto:joe.tina@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:30 PM
To: James Mak
Subject: Re: Roosevelt/2.1

Makes sense now.....that silly right lane with it's own control light has been a crazy thing since it went in. I use it all the time and I know it was to help visibility there but...it's just wacky.

Will the ADA path on little Roosevelt St go all the way from big Roosevelt to Broad or only to N. Tuckahoe? The drawing shows new sidewalk from big Roosevelt to Tuckahoe but where will the path go?

If only Ari could get the folks on right and left of where Columbia (19th st Ari) meets Roosevelt to cut the trees and bushes. I can not tell you how many right-left-right-left checks I do for pedestrians there when turning onto Roosevelt.

Pedestrians walking on the Roosevelt sidewalks as they approach the intersection are invisible until they are right there at the corner. The cars approaching from the Metro are also invisible until they are right in my face.

Tina

From: James M
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:02 PM
To: [Joe and Tina](#)
Cc: [Kirsten Munz](#)
Subject: RE: Roosevelt/2

Tina-
The lane reduction will be for the section of Roosevelt St from Tuckahoe St to Roosevelt Bl where there is an extra lane for right turns on the south side.

From: Joe and Tina [<mailto:joe.tina@verizon.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:57 PM
To: James Mak
Subject: Re: Roosevelt/2

Thanks...one question....is the lane reduction proposed for the Roosevelt that runs by the cemetery? I *thought* it was already one lane in each direction. If the reference is to the "other" Roosevelt (the big one) where would the lane reduction be? The FC part by the apt bldgs to Wilson or other areas?

Tina
BTW: I live on Noland and use these roads all the time.

From: [James Mak](#)
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:13 PM
To: [Joe and Tina](#)
Cc: [Kirsten Munz](#)
Subject: RE: Roosevelt

Tina-
The Roosevelt page has been updated and you can see it here: <http://www.fallschurchva.gov/roosevelt/>

You are correct – as far as the City's naming goes, Roosevelt St runs by Oakwood Cemetery from Roosevelt Bl to Roosevelt St.

The road running from Washington Bl, past Metro, and to Wilson is a little confusing because it is partially in Arlington County and partially in City of Falls Church. City of Falls Church calls the street Roosevelt Bl (for the portion from the Roosevelt/Roosevelt corner to Wilson) while Arlington County calls it Roosevelt St (for the portion from the Roosevelt/Roosevelt corner to Washington Bl)

Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments.

Thanks,

James Mak

Capital Improvements Projects Engineer/Manager
Department of Public Works
City of Falls Church
(703) 248 -5105

From: Joe and Tina [<mailto:joe.tina@verizon.net>]
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 1:12 PM

To: James Mak
Subject: re: Roosevelt

No links or descriptions of the conditions and plan(s) for Roosevelt. The page for West St is more detailed. Could you send a link to the more detailed Roosevelt info under consideration?

BTW: Roosevelt St vs. Blvd? I think of Roosevelt St as only the small street that runs by Oakwood Cemetery from Roosevelt Blvd. Does The City call a portion of Roosevelt Blvd (that runs from Wash Blvd, past Metro and up to Wilson) Roosevelt St?

Thanks,
Tina Earman

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

James Mak

From: Dennis Szymanski <dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 3:29 PM
To: James Mak
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Thanks yet again. Very helpful. As for the intersection, I know FCPD have occasionally hung out there so no need to fwd.

Dennis

From: James Mak [mailto:jmak@fallschurchva.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 2:27 PM
To: dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

There is no plan to change the access to Fort Taylor Park. Adding sidewalk on the south/east side was not considered due to limited right of way, potential constructability issues, and cost of building a retaining wall along that location due to the extreme grade. Part of the project concept involves updating the crosswalk at Ridge and Oakwood including plans to normalize the crossing and improve crosswalk visibility. We may also consider traffic calming measures.

As for people not stopping at the stop sign, this is an enforcement issue and we can forward your concerns on to FCPD.

James

From: Dennis Szymanski [mailto:dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 12:55 PM
To: James Mak
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Again, Thanks! Here's the thing (and I hope I'm not being a nitpicker) the Locals would say "sidewalk on the south/east side?" I say that because it only provides limited access to a limited, albeit historical, park. Maybe I could get (some other) retiree to count how many visit the park.

But again, my attempt at humor aside, it is important to make it clear as many "locals" thought the project would result on sidewalks on both sides thus connecting the Broad St to the "Oakwood path" on both sides of the street. A safety issue as the stop sign at Ridge and Oakwood is mostly ignored – as a pedestrian, I have personal experience.

Dennis

From: James Mak [mailto:jmak@fallschurchva.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 11:16 AM
To: Dennis Szymanski
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

The current sidewalks on Roosevelt St from Broad St to Ridge Pl will not change. The north/west sidewalk will continue to provide access to Broad St and the south/east sidewalk will continue to provide access to Fort Taylor Park.

From: Dennis Szymanski [<mailto:dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 11:11 AM
To: James Mak
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Thank you so much, James. I didn't see any mention of a (another) sidewalk from Broad to Ridge? Under consideration?

R/Dennis

From: James Mak [<mailto:jmak@fallschurchva.gov>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 11:08 AM
To: Dennis Szymanski
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Dennis-

You are correct. The reduction of lanes will only occur from Roosevelt St from Roosevelt Bl to N Tuckahoe St as the remainder of Roosevelt St is currently 2 lanes.

The City has not finalized a plan to provide an accessible path along Roosevelt St from Ridge Pl to N Tuckahoe St. This segment of roadway lacks adequate public right of way for a new sidewalk. Although the City is still discussions with private owners, we expect that the condition of the current path through Oakwood Cemetery will not change.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments.

Thanks,
James Mak

Capital Improvements Projects Engineer/Manager
Department of Public Works
City of Falls Church
(703) 248-5105

From: Dennis Szymanski [<mailto:dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 10:08 AM
To: James Mak
Subject: Roosevelt St project

James: The information on the FCC website reads "Reduction of lanes on Roosevelt Street from three lanes to two, one in each direction". This is not completely accurate as from Broad St to the School Bus stop there are only 2 lanes.

Will the "accessible path" continue to be the current path through Oakwood Cemetery?

Regards, Dennis Szymanski
915 Hillwood Ave

DISCLAIMER:
This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the

intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

James Mak

From: Dennis Szymanski <dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 11:40 AM
To: James Mak
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Thanks for the quick and to the point response, James. I've a long career in Federal Govt IT behind me and countless project plans, so I know "the plan is the plan". That is your responsibility.

In the broader context, if we are to make FCC more walkable, etc. then baby steps will take us there. Bill Hicks, the former DPW, hammered again and again about sidewalk obstructions – showed the same photos over and over. So imho it's not a project issue but a management issue.

Who knows? I could be wrong.
Best regards, Dennis

From: James Mak [<mailto:jmak@fallschurchva.gov>]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:04 AM
To: Dennis Szymanski
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: RE: Roosevelt St project

Dennis-

There is no plan at the moment to relocate telephone poles along the project area if it is not necessary due to potential increase in cost and delays to the project (coordination with Dominion, Verizon, etc). Depending on the final project design, we may deem relocations necessary on a case by case basis. The pole you are asking about would need to be reviewed to see if there is adequate right of way to either go around it or possibly relocate/modify its anchor wires so there is adequate clearance for a sidewalk.

The right turn lane was removed to make room for new sidewalk and to alter the configuration of the existing intersection to improve sight distance and calm traffic at that location.

Thanks for coming out to the meeting the other day – great to meet you in person.

James Mak

Capital Improvements Projects Engineer/Manager
Department of Public Works
City of Falls Church
(703) 248-5105

From: Dennis Szymanski [<mailto:dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:43 AM
To: James Mak
Cc: Kirsten Munz
Subject: Roosevelt St project

Well done open house yesterday; I had to leave before the presentations – had grandson obligations. I talked with Mark (?), from the architectural firm, about the telephone pole right where the existing

sidewalk ends. He was a little unclear on whether it was to be moved or not. You hear a lot from citizens about telephone poles obstructing sidewalks in the City and here is an opportunity to fix one. So, is the plan to relocate it or not?

Also, is "added green space" the primary reason for losing the right turn lane? I understand the bump out on the left side. Good idea.

Regards, Dennis

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

James Mak

From: Dennis Szymanski <dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 4:11 PM
To: James Mak; Kirsten Munz
Subject: FW: Roosevelt St project

FYI.

From: Dennis Szymanski [<mailto:dennis.szymanski48@verizon.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 8:37 AM
To: 'Cindy Mester'
Subject: Roosevelt St project

Cindy: good morning! I'm writing to you in your capacity as Acting, DPW. I went to the Open House on Saturday and your folks turned out in force and made it a good experience. I had/have some questions/thoughts I've exchanged with James Mak via email for your consideration.

During the recent City Council election campaigns, there was lots of hand waving about obstructed sidewalks. When Bill was DPW, he hammered again and again about sidewalk obstructions – showed the same photos over and over. On Roosevelt St, there are two (2) utility poles that obstruct the walkway and apparently neither are within scope of the project. I get that. However, if we are to make FCC more walkable, etc. then baby steps (pun intended) will take us there. I would suggest given funding challenges and other resource constraints, this opportunity may not present itself again anytime soon.

FCC more walkable...baby steps. Not a complicated message.

Regards, Dennis

James Mak

From: James Mak
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 2:26 PM
To: Kirsten Munz
Subject: Roosevelt St Comments

Kirsten-

Lisa, a renter at 999 N Tuckahoe called this afternoon. She was wondering about the possibility of a new sidewalk along the north side of Roosevelt St where the cemetery is. She is concerned about walking through the cemetery and would prefer a public path to connect Roosevelt from Ridge Pl to N Tuckahoe. I explained that the segment of Roosevelt St along the cemetery lacks adequate public right of way for new sidewalk due to the proximity of the Cemetery and the grade change on the north side. The City is currently in discussions with private owners and we expect that the existing pathway through Oakwood Cemetery will not change.

She understands that this option is out of the scope and budget of this project but would still like to see this alternative considered or put into a future project.

James Mak

From: Brown Family <kejhbrown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:04 PM
To: James Mak
Subject: Re: Roosevelt pedestrian project

Thanks for clarifying.

On Nov 15, 2013, at 2:30 PM, "James Mak" <jmak@fallschurchva.gov> wrote:

Ms. Brown-

The segment of Roosevelt St from N. Tuckahoe to Ridge Pl lacks adequate public right of way for new sidewalk due to the proximity of the Cemetery and the grade change on the north side. The City is currently in discussions with private owners and we expect that the existing pathway through Oakwood Cemetery will not change.

Thanks for your input and involvement in your neighborhood. Let me know if you have further questions or comments.

James Mak

Capital Improvements Projects Engineer/Manager

Department of Public Works

City of Falls Church

(703) 248-5105

From: Brown Family [<mailto:kejhbrown@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 11:14 AM
To: Kirsten Munz
Cc: James Mak
Subject: Re: Roosevelt pedestrian project

Kirsten -

The new signal is great! In fact, I have been meaning to email you to thank you for your hard work on this. We can hear the audible beep from our house, and we've noticed that it gets used frequently, which means it not only helps my husband, but the signal is being put to good use by lots of other pedestrians in the area as well.

Thanks for forwarding me the plan for Roosevelt Street. Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the meeting tomorrow. After reviewing the drawing, my only thought is that sometimes, people coming from the metro do not opt to cross the street and walk through the cemetery, and instead walk along the road (which is dangerous because there is not a shoulder there). Is there room on the residential side of the street from N. Tuckahoe to Ridge Pl. to make the sidewalk continuous? Also, I know that there is a school bus stop along Roosevelt - maybe continuing the sidewalk would make it a safer place for kids getting off the bus as well?

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share my input.

Eileen Brown

On Nov 15, 2013, at 10:28 AM, "Kirsten Munz" <kmunz@fallschurchva.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Brown,

I hope the new audible signal at East Broad and Roosevelt is working well for you now. We are scheduling our striping contractor to come out and finish the last crosswalk.

I am not sure if you have heard about a community meeting we have scheduled this weekend for pedestrian improvements along Roosevelt Street – if not, I have attached the notice of the meeting.

Below is a link to the webpage that includes a graphic of the conceptual design.

<http://www.fallschurchva.gov/Content/Government/Departments/PublicWorks/TrafficRoad/Projects/RooseveltStADA.aspx?cnlid=5513>

We'd love to see you at the meeting, but if you are unable to attend, we'd be happy to discuss the project further with you if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Munz, P.E., A.I.C.P.

Civil Engineer

Department of Public Works

City of Falls Church

300 Park Avenue, Suite 100W

Falls Church, VA 22046

(703)248-5331

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

<Meeting Notice - West and Roosevelt .pdf>

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail message and any attached files are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.



Pedestrian Projects Comment Form

Name: Tina EARMAN
Address: 226 NOLAND
Date: SAT

My comments apply to:

- North Roosevelt Street project
- North West Street project
- Both Projects
- Other

Comments

Yes, yes, yes!

Thank you for your comments!
Please return completed comment form to:

Department of Public Works • 300 Park Avenue, Suite 100W • Falls Church, Virginia 22046

